



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
106 SOUTH 15TH STREET
OMAHA NE 68102-1618

January 17, 2005

EE-1892
KB

Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division

Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

To Whom It May Concern:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District (Corps) has reviewed a letter from Mr. Sidney Strickland, of Sidney Strickland and Associates, dated December 22, 2005 regarding the Environmental and Historic Reports for the proposed abandonment of 0.11 miles of railroad line between Milepost 42.59 and Milepost 42.70 near Cody in Park County, Wyoming, Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 436X). The Corps has reviewed the information in the reports and offers the following comments:

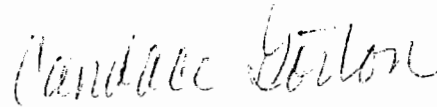
In general, the Environmental and Historic Reports (Reports) appear to be thorough and complete, covering impacts of the proposed abandonment on environmental, socioeconomic, and historical qualities such as the local transportation system, land use, prime farmland, energy, air quality, noise, safety, biological resources, water quality, and historical structures. In our letter dated November 17, 2005 providing comments on the proposed project, we recommended that plans should be coordinated with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office. All correspondence with these agencies is included as appendices to the Reports, except for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Although not required by the Board's regulations, the Corps recommends that the Wyoming Game and Fish Department be contacted regarding fish and wildlife resources.

According to the Reports, the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) does not believe the proposed abandonment will require a Section 404 permit. However, the report does not mention if National Wetlands Inventory maps or other resources have been consulted to determine the presence or absence of wetlands in the proposed abandonment area. This information should be included in the report. If there are any doubts about the need for a Section 404 permit, project plans should be sent to the Corps' state regulatory office at:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Wyoming Regulatory Office
Attention: CENWO-OD-R-WY/Bilodeau
2232 Dell Range Boulevard, Suite 210
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009-4942

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Kristine Nemec at (402) 221-4628.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Candace Gorton".

Candace M. Gorton, Chief
Environmental, Economics, and
Cultural Resources Section
Planning Branch

Copy Furnished:
CENWO-OD-R-WY/Bilodeau

Mr. Sidney L. Strickland
Sidney Strickland and Associates, PLLC
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Washington, D.C. 20007-5108